options available and take their produce to the centres that offer the best prices and services. The contract farming arrangements will provide an effective method of linking small farm sector to agro-processing industry and to sources for extension advice, seeds, credit card to assured and profitable markets.

A Vision 2015 on Food Processing Industries has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, which envisages, *inter-alia,* cluster based and emand driven farming, achieving integration of food processing infrastructure from farm to market, promoting a dynamic food processing industry which could result in trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. Under the Vision 2015, the thrust areas identified for strategic intervention are establishing Megs Food Parks, Modernization of abattoirs, Cold-chain/value addition and preservation infrastructure, capacity building by setting up of National Institute of Food Technology, Enterpreneurship & Management (N'FTEM), enacting Food safety and Standards Act, 2006, upgrading safety and quality of street food and establishment/upgradation of Quality Control Laboratories. Government has identified strategies along with a detailed action plan in this regard to realize the Vision 2015. An estimated investment of Rs. 100,000 crores is required to achieve to Vision 2015.

Food processing units in North Bengal

580. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish food processing units in North Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid to all implementing agencies @ 25% subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a

maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works. During the period from 2004-05 to 2006-07 (upto February),a total of 41 food processing units have been sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1443.31 lakhs in the State of West Bengal including Northern part of West Bengal. The year-wise details of financial assistance approved is as below:

Year	No. of unit	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
2004-05	13	430.79
2005-2006	9	435.41
2006-2007 (upto February)	19	577.11
TOTAL:	41	1443.31

Mid-Day Meal in Andhra Pradesh

581. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of children covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Andhra Pradesh has come down during the last three years *i.e.* from 90,81,299 in 2004-05 to about 60 lakhs in 2006-07;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for reduction in coverage in the State;

(c) whether it is a fact that assistance for cooking cost for States other than the North-Eastem State is only Rs. 1.50 paise;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether new guidelines have been formulated for Mid-Day Meal Scheme; and

(0 if so, the details of the revised guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that the figure of 90,81,299 shown in the year 2004-05 for Mid-Day Meal included children studying in